

School Yearbook Staffing

Ensuring that an appropriately prepared and endorsed teacher is assigned to teach in Michigan's classrooms is critical to student achievement. The State Board of Education (SBE) has [approved standards](#) for preparing teachers in each endorsement area.

When assigning a teacher to a yearbook course where English credit is being earned, the teacher must have one of the following endorsements: Language Arts (BX), or English (BA).

When assigning a teacher to a yearbook course where art credit is being earned, the teacher must have one of the following endorsements: Arts Education (LX), Visual Arts Education (LQ), and Visual Arts Specialist (LZ).

Under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) and SBE defined policy ([Michigan's Definition for Identifying Highly Qualified Teachers](#), December 6, 2005) teachers of core academic subject areas must meet the Highly Qualified (HQ) teacher requirements. English, language arts and visual arts courses are listed as core academic subject areas. Therefore, the [HQ requirements](#) apply.

If the yearbook class is being offered as a non-core elective course, the teacher does not need to hold a specific endorsement. Certification at the grade level the course is offered is sufficient if the teacher can provide evidence of professional development or experience similar to the production of a school yearbook.

The [Quick Reference: Courses That Can Be Taught](#) document indicates other endorsements that may be appropriate for teaching a yearbook course, including: Communication Arts (AX), Journalism (BC). Please note that both the Journalism (BC) and Communication Arts (AX) endorsements are being [discontinued](#) beginning with 2017 summer programs and the 2017-2018 school year.

If the yearbook course is offered before or after school, certification and appropriate endorsement is not required.